

REMARKS

Claims 37-40, 42-48 and 50-53 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated September 11, 2003, the Examiner allowed claims 48 and 50-53. The Examiner also indicated that claims 38-40 and 42-47 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, applicant amended the application in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. In the Advisory Action dated October 30, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the proposed amendment would not be considered in view of the newly submitted claims.

The Examiner is thanked for his careful review of the present application and for his indication of allowable subject matter. Although the applicant does not agree with the Examiner's position regarding claims 38-40 and 42-47, in order to expedite the issuance of the allowed subject matter, applicant herein cancels claims 37-40 and 42-47 without prejudice to the filing of any other continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

Applicant notes that the PTO-1449's filed on July 20, 2001, August 15, 2001 and February 21, 2003, and returned by the Examiner with the Office Action dated April 11, 2003, do not have all the prior art initialed by the Examiner. More specifically, reference "AK" on the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 20, 2001, has not been initialed. Also, reference "AR" on the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 15, 2001, has not been initialed. Additionally, reference "AK" on the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 21, 2003 has not been initialed. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the references noted above and initial the PTO-1449's to indicate that said references have been considered.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.  
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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SHA:tlm

Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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